

REMARKS

Claims 45-49 are added. Accordingly claims 1-49 are all the claims pending in the application.

Regarding preliminary matters, the Office Action mailed October 31, 2002, did not include a Notice of References (PTO-892), although attachment of such a document was indicated in the Office Action Summary. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner include a copy of the Notice of References in the next Office paper.

Claims 1-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Heath et al. ("Heath") in view of Schneider et al. ("Schneider"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least because the asserted combination does not include all the limitations recited in the claims. In particular, neither reference, alone or in combination discloses using an access vector to identify an available access object.

Claims 1, 11, and 21, are directed to methods, apparatuses, and articles of manufacture, respectively, for determining access to a system. These claims recite, for each of a plurality of requests, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object.

Heath is relied on for receiving one or more requests to access a system, but the Examiner admits that Heath fails to teach, for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object.

Schneider is relied upon to fulfill that deficiency. That is, Schneider is relied upon for teaching an access vector that is used to identify an available access object. The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Heath with

Schneider for the purpose of overcoming the scalability problems of the prior art access filters presented for virtual private networks.

Even assuming *arguendo* that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Heath and Schneider, as asserted in the Office Action, which it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been, such a combination does not satisfy all the limitations of claim 1. This is because the combination does not teach or suggest determining whether to "allow access to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object" as required by the claims.

Heath discloses granting a connection to a client by using conventional username/password authentication and validating requests for access to an application program based upon a subscriber privilege level associated with the client.

Schneider discloses a scalable access filter for use in a virtual private network in which individual access filters use local copies of an access control database, shown in Fig. 3, to make local access control decisions. The access control database contains access policy, administrative policy, and policy-maker policy information that includes a sensitivity level associated with each information resource for which the access filter controls access. However, nowhere does Schneider disclose or even suggest using an access vector to identify an available access object. Figure 3, for example, depicts an access control database using a complex system-level block diagram, but nowhere does that diagram depict a vector. Similarly, in Figure 15, Schneider discloses a complex database schema to depict a portion of the access control database that contains information about resources at each site. However, nowhere in that figure does

Schneider teach or even suggest use of a vector, much less, an access vector to identify an available access object.

Schneider does not disclose a vector, and accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Schneider does not teach or suggest determining whether to allow access to a system using an access vector to identify an available access object. Even when considered with Heath, the Heath/Schneider combination does not teach or suggest determining whether to allow access to a system using an access vector to identify an available access object, as required by claim 1.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Heath/Schneider combination asserted in the Office Action does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Independent claims 11, 21, 31 and 38 also recite for each request, determining whether to allow access to a system using an access vector to identify an available access object. Accordingly, the asserted Heath/Schneider combination also does not include all the limitations of independent claims 11, 21, 31 and 38, for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claims 2-10, 12-20, 22-30, 32-37, 39-44 and 45-49 contain by reference all the limitations of claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 38, respectively, and hence, are not rendered unpatentable by a Heath/Schneider combination for at least the same reasons.

Support for new claims 45-49 is found in the specification at least in Figure 4; page 9, line 7, through page 10, line 2; and page 12, lines 13-21.

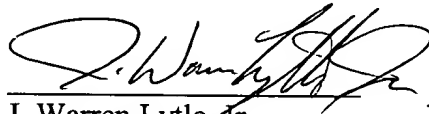
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application in condition for allowance. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully

Amendment
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requested to call the undersigned to resolve any issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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